Thank you, Julia!

We will be discussing the circulating drama collection of the New York Public library for the Performing Arts. The library states to have one of the world's most extensive combinations of circulating, reference, and rare archival collections; however, we have identified one drawback to their extensive collection. They have a shortage of plays and screenplays in another language besides English. The drama collection at NYPL is very extensive and it encompasses all subjects you might expect in a drama collection. The Endangered Language Alliance detected over 600 different languages spoken in the New York metropolitan area which contains 20 million people. New York City has a population of 8.4 million people, nearly 2 million speak Spanish, half a million speak Chinese and 200,000 speak Russian. Yet, the many New Yorkers whose native tongue is other than English cannot find resources on the dramatic arts in their native language at the NYPLPA. MIT libraries state that holding non-English materials is a key step in uplifting voices from marginalized groups and creating an equitable environment within the library. A drama collection that contains only scripts in English does not reflect New York global perspective nor does it bring diverse communities together. By establishing a poly-lingual World Drama Collection within the circulating drama collection, NYPLPA can reach out to its non-English speaking patrons and highlight the unique contributions to the dramatic arts of people from all over the world. We propose to expand the library's drama

collection to include works from playwrights, production specialists, scholars, artists, and other professionals within the dramatic arts community in their original, non-English language. We believe that carrying plays and other resources in their original languages is essential for NYPL's mission. This benefits NYPL's ESL and non-English speaking patrons who are currently not being served by the circulating drama collection. This also benefits scholars who are researching non-English drama, allowing them to read the works as they were intended to be read. We want the World Drama Collection to be a resource for students at any stage in life, be they high school or graduate students or beyond. We have proposed 12 items to add to their collection as a start, Tim will address in detail the items we proposed. In addition to the 12 items we are considering we are also proposing that NYPLPA creates a specialized World Drama Collection within its current drama collection. Ideally this new collection would contain hundreds or even thousands of resources to truly reflect New York's global perspective. Tim will now discuss the materials we are proposing as a start to build the World Drama Collection.